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S E C R E T WARSAW 003410

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NP/ECNP:YWONG AND EUR/PRA:TYEAGER

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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [ETTC](#) [MASS](#) [PL](#) [LY](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: POLISH RESPONSE REGARDING WEAPONS SALES TO
INDONESIA AND LIBYA

REF: STATE 164967

¶11. (S) SUMMARY. Embassy delivered reftel demarche to Ministry of Economy (MOE) and MFA officials responsible for export controls. Both ministries confirmed that there was an agreement with Indonesia for sale of the Kobra air defense system to Indonesia, but there were as yet no applications for export. According to the MOE, the Poprad missiles in the Kobra system can only be re-converted to MANPADS use by the Polish firm responsible for the original conversion, Radvar. Regarding Libya, MFA said that, although Polish defense contractors had accompanied PM Belka to Tripoli earlier this year, there were no current plans for any sales of lethal military equipment (LME) to Libya. END SUMMARY.

INDONESIA

¶12. (S) PolMilOff met September 9 with Jacek Sliwowski Director of the MOE Export Controls Departments, which is Poland's Export Licensing Authority to discuss reftel demarche on weapons sales to Indonesia and Libya. Sliwowski confirmed that there was an agreement with the GOI allowing the eventual sale of the Kobra air defense system to Indonesia, but added the caveat that his office had to date received no application for such a transaction. He expected that Bumar, one of Poland's leading defense contractors, would probably manage the sale.

¶13. (S) Sliwowski confirmed that the "Kobra" system consisted of a vehicle platform mounted with four "Poprad" surface to air launchers. The starting point is the "Grom" MANPADS system manufactured by the Polish firm Mesko. Another Polish firm, Radvar, then takes a newly produced "Grom," strips its man-portable launcher and triggering mechanism, and installs it in the "Poprad" vehicle launcher, with its own triggering mechanism. According to Sliwowski only Radvar can re-convert the missiles to MANPADS use. Sliwowski attempted to contact Radvar by telephone to request precise technical specifications, but was unable to reach them. However, MOE stands ready to serve as an intermediary in requesting the specifications, and Sliwowski suggested that in theory it should not be difficult to obtain them if Department so wishes.

¶14. (S) In a separate meeting September 12 with PolMil Chief, Andrzej Morstin of the Export Controls Office in the MFA Security Policy Department confirmed the MOE information. He added that the GOP did not expect any Poprad sales to Indonesia to be completed before 2006 or 2007.

LIBYA

¶15. (S) Turning to Libya, Sliwowski said that he was unaware of any plans for Poprad sales to the GOL. Various Polish firms had expressed interest in contracts to maintain Libya's Warsaw Pact inventory, but MOE did not know of any plans to sell lethal military equipment (LME) to Libya. He expressed great interest in cooperating closely with U.S. export control authorities to make sure that no Polish transaction ran afoul of U.S. laws.

¶16. (S) Morstin told PolMilOff separately that MFA was well aware of U.S. policy on LME transfers to Libya. He echoed Sliwowski that there were no applications for any such sales, and added that MFA would not approve them if they were received. He confirmed that Polish firms had accompanied PM Belka to Tripoli, but stressed that the focus of their interest was assisting the GOL with weapons decommissioning and destruction, particularly with regard to chemical weapons.
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